

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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P R 291700Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7686
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10335

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV SW SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: MEETING WITH SHIPANGA

SUMMARY: SHIPANGA HAS FORMED A NEW ORGANIZATION CALLED
SWAPO-DEMOCRATS WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY JOIN THE NNF.
SHIPANGA SUPPORTS THE WESTERN PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA BUT
DOES NOT PLAN TO RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY AT LEAST UNTIL
THE CONTACT GROUP HAS FINISHED ITS EFFORTS. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY OFFICER SAW ANDREAS SHIPANGA JUNE 28.
SHIPANGA SAID HE HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME RESTING
SINCE HIS RELEASE FROM DETENTION BUT HIS THOUGHTS HAVE
ALSO TURNED TO POLITICS AND WHAT ROLE HE SHOULD PLAY IN
BRINGING NAMIBIA TO INDEPENDENCE. IN SWEDEN, HE SAID,
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HE MET WITH A DELEGATION OF THE DTA BUT REJECTED THEIR
INVITATION TO JOIN THE ALLIANCE BECAUSE OF THE ETHNICITY
AND REGIONALISM OF THE DTA PROGRAM. HE ALSO MET WITH AN
NNF DELEGATION, WITH WHOM HE FELT MORE COMFORTABLE. IN
THE END, HOWEVER, SHIPANGA DECIDED TO FORM HIS OWN
ORGANIZATION CALLED SWAPO-DEMOCRATS. HE DOES NOT RULE
OUT ASSOCIATING THE NEW GROUP WITH THE NNF OR EVEN JOIN-

ING, BUT FIRST HE WISHES TO ORGANIZE HIS PARTY INDEPENDENTLY, AND THIS HE HAS SET ABOUT DOING.

2. SHIPANGA HAD NO KIND WORDS FOR NUJOMA OR THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. HE ACCUSED THE SWAPO LEADER OF CORRUPTION AND OF BETRAYING THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPLES OF THE ORGANIZATION. NUJOMA NOW MOUTHS THE JARGON OF THE KREMLIN, HE SAID, AND IS HOLDING NAMIBIA HOSTAGE TO HIS OWN AMBITIONS. SHIPANGA PREDICTED NUJOMA WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE WESTERN PROPOSALS BECAUSE HE KNOWS HIS OWN POPULARITY INSIDE NAMIBIA HAS DECLINED. SHIPANGA, HOWEVER, ACCEPTS THE PROPOSALS. HE ACCUSED THE FRONT LINE, ESPECIALLY KAUNDA AND NYERERE, OF UNJUSTIFIABLY MEDDLING IN SWAPO AND NAMIBIAN AFFAIRS. BY PROPPING UP NUJOMA AND SUPPORTING THE MYTH OF SWAPO'S UNIQUE REPRESENTATION, THE FRONT LINE IS IN FACT OBSTRUCTING A SETTLEMENT.

3. SHIPANGA SAID HE DID NOT AT THE MOMENT HAVE PLANS TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA. HE RECOGNIZES THAT SWAPO-DEMOCRATS DOES NOT HAVE MUCH CHANCE OF WINNING OUTSIDE RECOGNITION AS MORE THAN A SWAPO SPLINTER GROUP. AT THE SAME TIME, HE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE DANGER THAT RETURNING TO NAMIBIA MIGHT BRAND HIM AS A SELL-OUT TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND THAT HE RISKS BECOMING THE "SITHOLE OF NAMIBIA". WHATEVER HIS FINAL DECISION, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, SHIPANGA SAID HE WILL WAIT TO SEE THE OUTCOME OF THE CONTACT GROUP'S EFFORTS.

BREWSTER

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